

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners,

As a citizen who wants to be informed about the political and electoral issues that affect my life, I am greatly disappointed by the lack of informative television programming especially in regards to the current presidential campaign.

What little campaign coverage there is lazily focuses on the strategy of the candidates and polling numbers, with only cursory discussions of the serious issues at stake in this election. It is quite clear that the major media outlets are pandering to ratings rather than serving the public good as stewards of the public airwaves.

As an educated electorate is critical to a properly-functioning democracy, the FCC should define meaningful public interest requirements that include local civic and electoral affairs programming. At a minimum, broadcasters should air three hours per week of local civic and electoral affairs programming, with at least two hours devoted to substantive election coverage in the six weeks prior to Election Day. Similarly, it is vital that citizens have access to a diversity of opinions and voices on the choices confronting us.

In the interest of the health of American democracy, I urge you to take a long, hard look at whether broadcasters are meeting their public obligation.

Sincerely,

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